Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 6
Chapter 23

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Vol. 23 White, Cold Cage

THE ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN FIRST LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES AND MISS EKATERINA...
IS THE TALK OF THE TOWN...
IS HE SUCH A ROMANTIC MAN?
I THINK HE IS A FOOLISH PHILANDERER WHO WENT TO FAR CHASING A MARRIED WOMAN, AND WAS FORCED TO MARRY HER SISTER.
THAT'S WHAT PUSHKIN WANTED!
D'ANTHES IS PAYING FOR HIS MISTAKES. BUT IT'S UNFORGIVABLE THAT PUSHKIN IS SO ELATED WITH HIS SUCCESS!
BUT IT'S SO ARTIFICIAL, DON'T YOU THINK?
EVERYONE FIND IT SUSPICIOUS.
POOR D'ANTHES.
HE'S PROTECTING THE HONOUR OF THE WOMAN HE LOVES, NATALIA,
BY SACRIFICING HIMSELF WHAT A GENTLEMAN.
HE LOOKED UTTERLY DEPRESSED,
AND THEN ODDLY EXCITED AGAIN

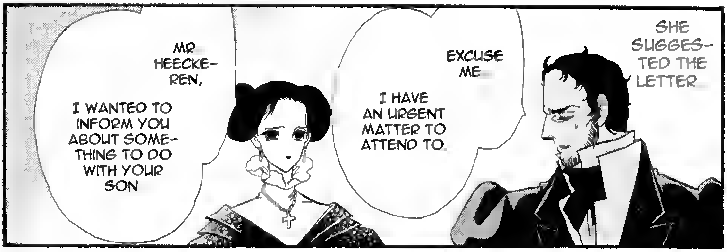
WHEN D'ANTHES, AS EKATERINA'S FIANCÉ, GOES TO PAY A COURTESY VISIT TO PUSHKIN'S HOUSE,
HE'S NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER
PUSHKIN SENDS BACK LETTERS FROM D'ANTHES WITHOUT READING THEM
IF THEY EVEN MEET ON THE STREET, PUSHKIN WILL IGNORE D'ANTHES
AND SO,
WITH THIS ODD ENGAGEMENT,
PUSHKIN IS MAKING IT CLEAR TO EVERYONE THAT HE INDEED DEFEATED HEECKEREN'S SON

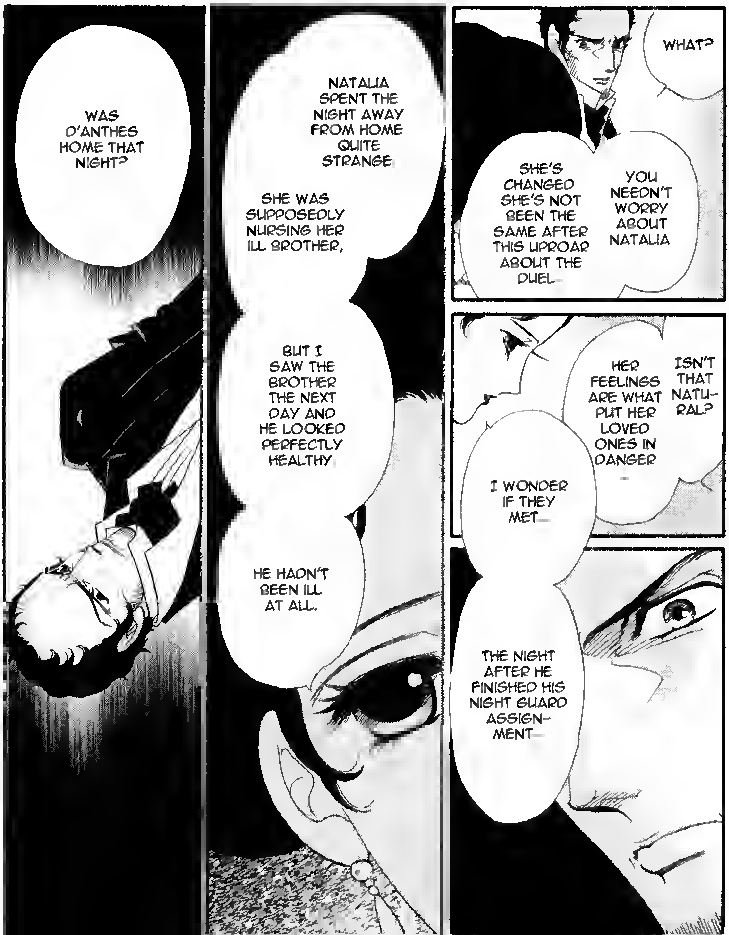
POOR D'ANTHES.
PUSHKIN ISN'T BEING MATURE AT ALL!
IF THEY REACHED THIS AGREEMENT TO AVOID THE DUEL, THEN HE SHOULD FORGIVE AND FORGET AND EXTEND THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP
HANG ON, NATALIA ♡
THEN ISN'T EKATERINA PITIFUL?
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO AREN'T SATISFIED WITH THIS ENGAGEMENT
NESSELRODE, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
WANTED D'ANTHES TO MARRY HIS DAUGHTER
THEY ARE SO CRUEL
I'M SORRY, NESSELRODE
MY DAUGHTER VICTORIA IS VERY UPSET
THAT'S ALL MY FAULT
AH!! DON'T GO TOO FAR
BECAUSE YOU PAMPER D'ANTHES TOO MUCH
!
HIS MAJESTY IS HERE

Achoo!
rustle
YES, VERY COLD.
IT IS COLD TODAY, NESSELRODE.
YOUR MAJESTY, YOUR CAPE.
swish

YOUR MAJESTY?
THIS SCANDAL HAS CAUSED YOU TO LOSE FAVOUR WITH THE TSAR,
HEEC-KEREN
THAT'S A PITY
THAT LETTER HINTED AT AN AFFAIR MRS PUSHKIN AND THE TSAR
WHAT IF PUSHKIN TOLD THE TSAR.
THAT I WROTE IT?

I
IDALIA POLETIKA...
THAT WOULD BE MY DOWN-FALL
WHAT A PITY, AMBASSA-DOR HEEC-KEREN
THIS WOMAN WAS THE ONE
WHO STARTED EVERY-THING


MR HEECKEREN,
I WANTED TO INFORM YOU ABOUT SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR SON
EXCUSE ME...
I HAVE AN URGENT MATTER TO ATTEND TO.
SHE SUGGESTED THE LETTER...


WHAT?
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT NATALIA
SHE'S CHANGED SHE'S NOT BEEN THE SAME AFTER THIS UPROAR ABOUT THE DUEL...
ISN'T THAT NATURAL?
HER FEELINGS ARE WHAT PUT HER LOVED ONES IN DANGER...
I WONDER IF THEY MET...
THE NIGHT AFTER HE FINISHED HIS NIGHT GUARD ASSIGNMENT...
NATALIA SPENT THE NIGHT AWAY FROM HOME QUITE STRANGE.
SHE WAS SUPPOSEDLY NURSING HER ILL BROTHER,
BUT I SAW THE BROTHER THE NEXT DAY AND HE LOOKED PERFECTLY HEALTHY.
HE HADN'T BEEN ILL AT ALL.
WAS D'ANTHES HOME THAT NIGHT?

I'M SORRY, MASTER HEECKEREN!
THE YOUNG MASTER ORDERED ME TO TAKE THE MONEY TO THAT INN...
ENOUGH ALREADY! YOU CAN LEAVE.
IS GEORGES SLEEPING?
THE YOUNG MASTER HAD A SLIGHT FEVER SO HE WENT TO REST.
IN HIS ROOM?
HE TRIED TO ELOPE...
THROWING EVERYTHING AWAY...
AND LEAVING ME BEHIND...

HOW DID HE DARE...
TO BETRAY ME?
SLAP

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW ANGRY I AM...
HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO GUESS MY FEELINGS?
THE FEELINGS OF A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND IN POSITION SO MISERABLE IT'S LIKE DEATH,
WHO ENDURED SO MUCH HARDSHIP ONLY FOR YOUR SAKE?
THE FEELINGS OF A PERSON WHO'S BEEN DESTROYED BY YOU...
BECAUSE OF A SELFISH AND IMPOSSIBLE LOVE!!
ARE YOU RESENTFUL?
I DIDN'T ELOPE AFTER ALL. I BEHAVED LIKE A GOOD SON AND I'M EVEN GOING TO GET MARRIED OBEDIENTLY...
EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS LIVING A LIFE WITHOUT LOVE OR HOPE...

ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME THAT I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL?
WHAT I'VE ACHIEVED ISN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU?
ALTHOUGH YOU WERE THE ONE CONSTANTLY PESTERING ME ABOUT STATUS AND WEALTH?
I'M MORE THAN JUST A WOMAN!
SNICKER
YES
I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOUR DESIRE FOR ME.
I CAN'T EVEN BELIEVE IT MYSELF
HA HA HA HA
HE IS MAKING FUN OF ME
THEN...
I SHOULD MAKE YOU ATONE FOR THAT DESIRE.

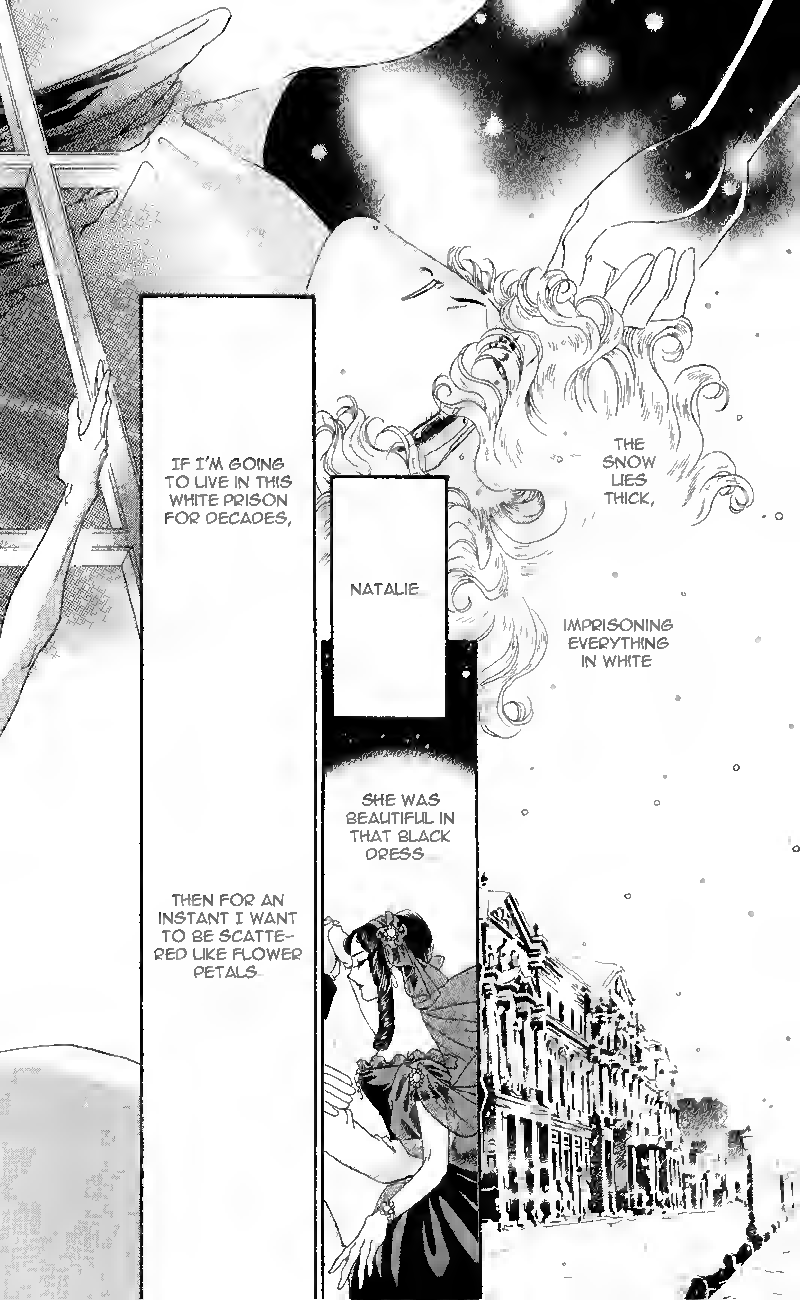
RIP
!
THUD
STOP..
AH
...

STOP...
shing

I ALWAYS KEEP IT AT THE BEDSIDE
YOU'LL KILL ME,
AND THEN SNATCH AWAY ALL THAT I HAVE?
YOU INGRATE!"
!
GEOR-GES!?

I'M SERIOUS!
I'M FED UP WITH BEING TOLD WHAT I HAVE TO DO
I WILL KILL MYSELF!
...
I FELT INCLINED TO LEAVE IT TO FATE
TO GROW TO LIKE EKATERINA IN MY OWN WAY...
FOR THE SAKE OF NATALIA'S HAPPINESS
BUT NATALIA'S HAPPINESS IS FAR OFF NOW
THERE IS NO MEANING
IN GETTING MARRIED, STAYING IN THIS COUNTRY AND BEING YOUR SON
YOU ARE GOING TO ABANDON EKATERINA AND RUN AWAY AT THIS LATE HOUR!?
PUSHKIN WON'T JUST STAND ON THE SIDELINES IF YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT
HE WILL CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL AGAIN AT ONCE

IT'S ALL RIGHT, I WANT TO DIE
IT WILL BE BETTER IF I AM DEAD
I GET IT, GEORGES
DON'T DO ANYTHING
...
PUT THE KNIFE DOWN
YOU HAVE A FEVER
YOU SHOULD REST
GET OUT
GET OUT
Close
THIS IS...
POISON!


IF I'M GOING TO LIVE IN THIS WHITE PRISON FOR DECADES,
THEN FOR AN INSTANT I WANT TO BE SCATTERED LIKE FLOWER PETALS
NATALIE
SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL IN THAT BLACK DRESS
THE SNOW LIES THICK,
IMPRISONING EVERYTHING IN WHITE

MY ANGEL OF DEATH
SHOW ME THE WAY
TO A WORLD OF FREEDOM

New Year's Eve party
Vyazemsky's Mansion
WELL, THIS YEAR WAS PROSPEROUS,
PRINCE VYAZEMSKY
THE PARTY AT YOUR HOUSE IS BECOMING A NEW YEAR'S EVE CUSTOM
IT'S A PLEASURE TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR HERE
ENJOY YOURSELVES UNTIL MORNING
THE DANCE IS ABOUT TO START
PLEASE, COME INSIDE

AH...
HMM?
WELCOME ZAGRYAZHSKAYA, EKATERINA
THAT MAN
I FORBADE HIM TO COME TO THIS HOUSE...
SSSHH, DEAR!
THE WEDDING WILL TAKE PLACE IN TEN DAYS, WON'T IT? I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT
OF COURSE
I HOPE IT'S OKAY
THIS YEAR WE'VE INVITED EKATERINA'S FIANCE
MRS. VYAZEMSKY

D'ANTHES!
HAVE YOU RECOVERED FROM YOUR ILLNESS?
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, EKATERINA?
AUNT
D'ANTHES,
PUSHKIN AND HIS WIFE ARE COMING
I EARNESTLY ASK YOU NOT TO CAUSE AN UPROAR
D'ANTHES TOLD ME THAT HE WANTED TO COME TO THIS PARTY NO MATTER WHAT
I THINK HE HAS SOMETHING IN MIND...
PUSHKIN!

MADAME,
YOU TOO.
D'ANTHES IS HERE.
IGNORE HIM.
!
YES
ABSTAIN FROM FLIRTING
ESPECIALLY WITH THAT MAN
NATALIA...

I WOULD RATHER YOU DIDN'T SMILE AT ANYBODY NOT EVEN ME
MY ATTITUDE IS THE SAME WITH EVERYBODY
IT'S VERY PAINFUL TO SEE YOU TRYING TO DECEIVE YOUR HEART
WHEN WILL NATALIA RETURN TO HER FORMER SELF?
SASHA?

WHAT IS IT?
YOU SHOULD TELL ME CLEARLY THAT IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE FOR YOU
TO SEE YOUR FIANCE STARING AT YOUR SISTER
I WILL NEVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT

I APPRE-
CIATE YOUR
HUMILITY,
BUT DON'T
EXPECT ANY
FURTHER
GRATITUDE
FROM ME
EKATERINA
YOU ARE
HERE TOO
SASHA
WENT TO
BRING
SOME
CHAM-
PAGNE
WHERE
IS YOUR
FIANCE?
EKATE-
RINA?
NATALIA,
STOP ACTING
LIKE THAT.
OPEN YOUR
EYES!!

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP DENYING REALITY?
EVERYONE THINKS YOU'VE BECOME STRANGE
BECAUSE OF THE WAY YOU ACT
DON'T THINK YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO SUFFERS!
I'M SUFFERING TOO
YOU
EKATERINA
AREN'T YOU GOING TO GET MARRIED?
IN TEN DAYS
HE WILL BE YOUR

NATA...
I'M THE LOWEST
I LECTURED HER
WHEN THE TRUTH IS THAT I WAS JEALOUS
NATALIA?

GOOD-
BYE...
GEORGES
D'ANTHES
WAS
MINE,
JUST FOR
A SHORT
TIME!!
FOR-
EVER.

A NEW YEAR WILL BE HERE SOON!
FIRE-WORKS!
TURN OUT THE LIGHTS
GET YOUR CHAMPAGNE GLASSES READY
THEY ARE GOING TO SET THEM OFF IN THE GARDEN
kyaaa
SOME-ONE JUST KISSED ME!
WHO WAS IT?
Ooh
I WILL HAVE THE FIRST SWIM OF THE YEAR!
STOP, DEAR!
Grip

LET ME GO...
PLEASE...

IT'S A NEW YEAR!
KABOOM KABOOM
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Aah
Woo
Ooh

I WANT YOU.
DID HE...
I REALLY HATE YOU!!
DON'T MAKE A FOOL OF ME!
DON'T DO THIS AGAIN!
WHY

IN SUCH A PLACE,
AND AT SUCH A TIME...
...JUST BECAUSE IT'S DAD!
YOU DIDN'T USED TO BE THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD DO SOME-THING LIKE THIS
I CAN'T HELP IT.
THE QUALITY OF MY LOVE HAS CHANGED
MY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING PATIENCE IS GONE
WHY?
YOU AND I
ON EARTH?
WERE MIS-TAKEN FROM THE BEGIN-NING.
IT WAS A FARCE TILL THE END, AFTER ALL.
"THE END."

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE IS THINKING
IT WOULD BE A PITY IF WE DIDN'T ENJOY WHAT LITTLE TIME WE HAVE LEFT.
HAS HE GONE MAD!?

LET'S HAVE A GOOD TIME TOGE-THER NEXT TIME, SIS-TER
!
NATALIA!
YOUR HUSBAND IS HERE
LET'S PART.
!
DID HE DO SOMETHING TO YOU?
...
IT'S AS EKATERINA SAID.
NATALIA, THAT WAS
D'AN-THES?

NO, HE DIDN'T...
NOBODY WILL HELP HIM
IF HE BECOMES STRANGE
HAS NATALIA
RETURNED TO NORMAL?

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Chapter 24

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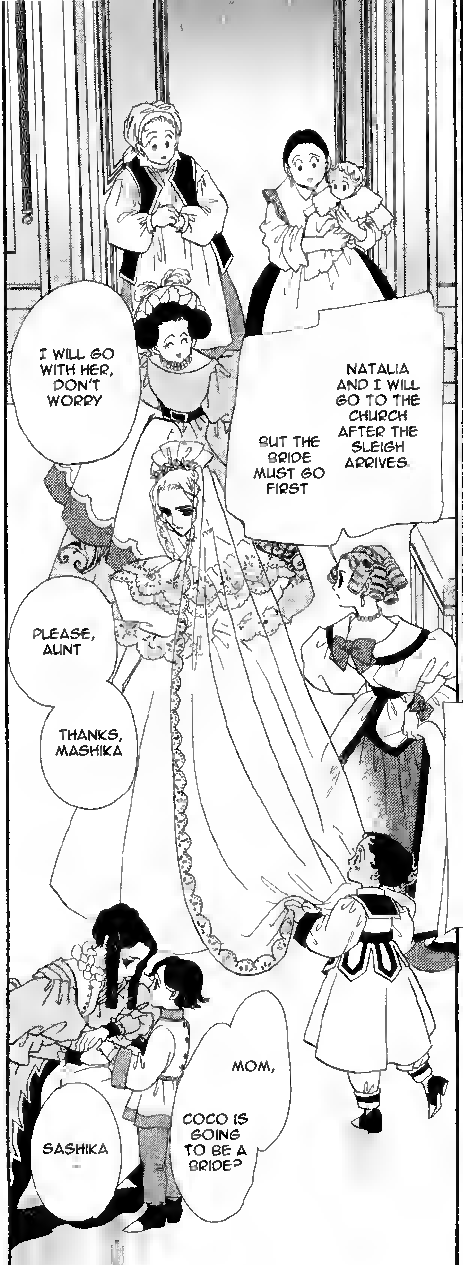
Vol. 24 Wedding Night


I WILL GO WITH HER, DON'T WORRY
NATALIA AND I WILL GO TO THE CHURCH AFTER THE SLEIGH ARRIVES.
BUT THE BRIDE MUST GO FIRST
PLEASE, AUNT
THANKS, MASHIKA
MOM,
COCO IS GOING TO BE A BRIDE?
SASHIKA

January 10th, 1837
HURRY EKATE-RINA!
MR HEECKE-REN'S COACH
IS HERE TO TAKE YOU!
SASHA! DON'T TOUCH THE VEIL!

SASHA
YES.
GO GIVE HER A KISS TO CONGRATULATE HER
TO THE CASINO
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T COME?
IF YOU DON'T, THERE WILL BE GOSSIP ...
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU? SOCIETY OR ME?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN ATTEND THAT CEREMONY AND SMILE!!
MASTER,
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
MR. PUSHKIN...
AMBASSADOR HEECKEREN.

YOU CAN COME TO THE CHURCH WITH US
THERE IS ROOM FOR YOU IN THE COACH
I'M NOT GOING.
THEN EVERY-ONE WILL CON-TINUE TO THINK THAT THERE IS DISCORD BET-WEEN OUR FAMILIES
I KNOW THAT'S WHY I WON'T BE ATTENDING
GOOD BYE
NATALIA
CAREFUL NOT TO STEP ON THE HEM OF THE VEIL, OKAY?
THOUGH I THINK AUNT WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF IT
I WILL BE HAPPY
I BELIEVE IN MR D'ANTHES, NO MATTER WHAT

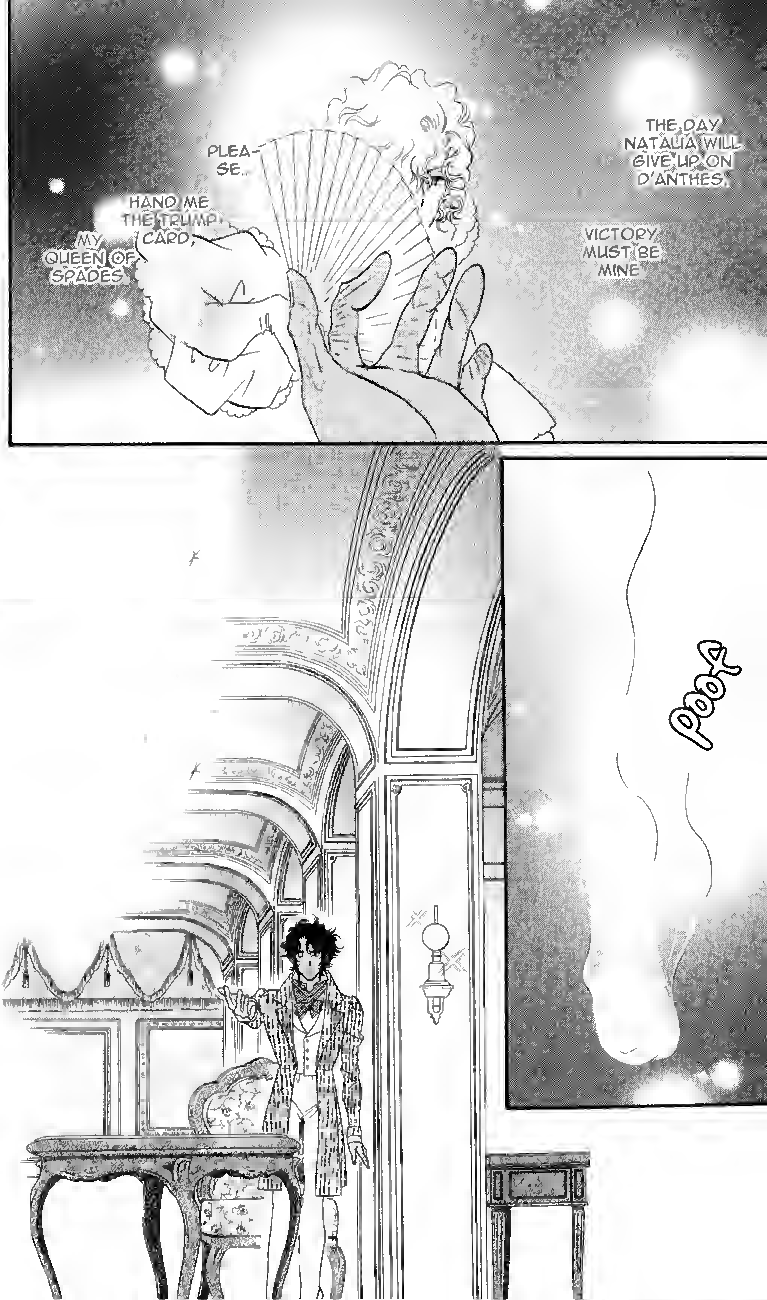
EKATE-RINA...
I WAS GLAD FOR YOU, BUT NOW I REGRET THIS ARRANGE-MENT...
D'ANTHES AND YOUR SISTER'S HUSBAND ARE BOTH MEN THAT CANNOT BE DEALT WITH THROUGH ORDI-NARY MEANS
...
YES, EKATE-RINA
AUNT IS LATE GO CALL HER
IT CAN'T BE HELPED HE IS STILL IN LOVE WITH MY SISTER
LOVE IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE FORCED, IT IS BORN NATU-RALLY...
FROM NOW ON, SURELY, YOU WILL BE MY ONLY ALLY
SO TELL ME
LAST WEEK, MR. D'ANTHES TOLD ME...
THAT HE IS UNWORTHY RUBBISH COMPARED TO ME
THAT HE RES-PECTS ME,
AND SO HE WON'T BE ABLE TO EMBRACE ME
DID HE SAY SUCH A THING?
EKATE-RINA...
I HAVE NEVER MET A WOMAN AS STRONG AND HONEST AS YOU...

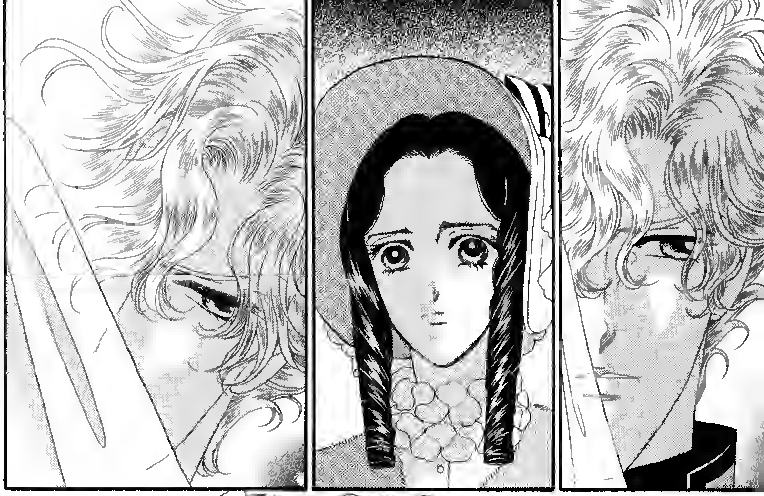
Excitement
GREAT!! I WIN!
TSK
ANOTHER CLUB
OH NO, I LOSE AGAIN!
STOP IT, PUSHKIN YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY LEFT
ONCE MORE!
I WON'T STOP UNTIL I HAVE A MAJOR LOSS!!
WILL YOU RETURN IT TO ME?
LEND ME SOME MONEY!
YES, WHEN I WIN!
DAMN...
AGAIN!
BATTLE

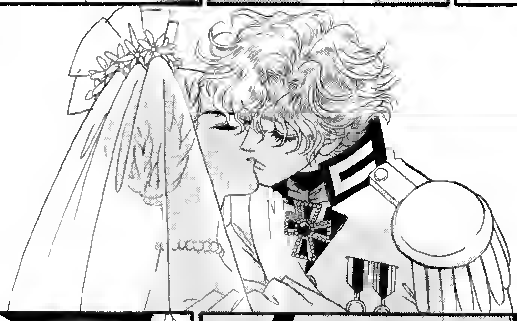
HE IS RUINING HIMSELF
WHAT WILL HE DO IF HE GOES FURTHER INTO DEBT?
HE CANNOT CONCENTRATE ON HIS WORK AT ALL.
HE WON'T WIN IF HE ACTS SO UNREASONABLY
PUSHKIN IS USUALLY HOT-HEADED, BUT TODAY HE'S ESPECIALLY BAD
ONE MORE TIME!!
PUSHKIN!
I WANTED TO GO TO MOSCOW TOMORROW, BUT I LOST MY TRAVEL BUDGET
ME TOO
SOLLOGUB,
I HAD A MAJOR LOSS
YOU WILL BE FINE
BUT I

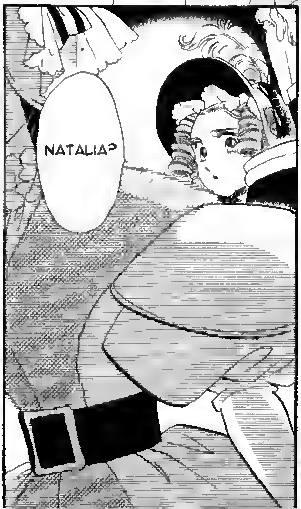
SOLLO-GUB!
THAT'S... ...
I HEARD A RUMOUR THAT YOU MODELLED HER AFTER THE WIFE OF PRINCE GOLITSYN. IS THAT TRUE?
LIKE IN YOUR WORK "THE QUEEN OF SPADES."
I WOULDN'T MIND AN OLD COUNTESS, EVEN IF SHE'S A GHOST, HANDING ME A TRUMP CARD.

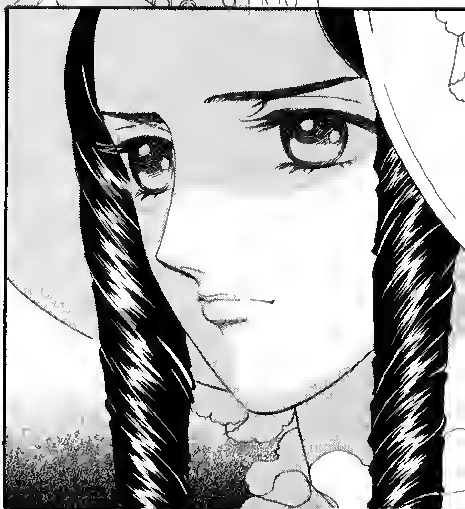
ARE YOU HERE TO TELL ME
TO STOP THIS USELESS GAMBLING?
MOTHER
I HAVE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS DAY TO ARRIVE
IT'S MY DAY TO TAKE BACK MY WIFE
BUT TODAY, AT LEAST, I DIDN'T WANT TO STOP UNTIL I WON.

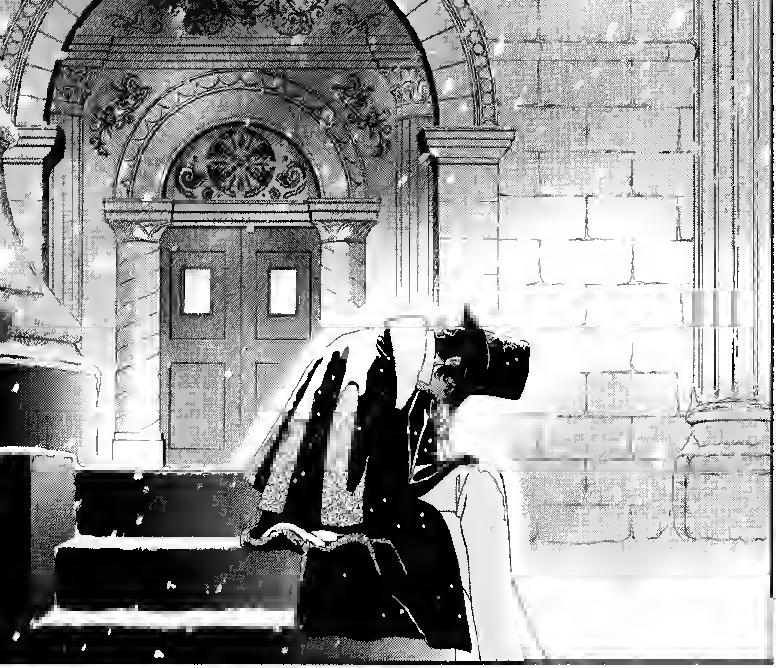

MY QUEEN OF SPADES.
HAND ME THE TRUMP CARD, PLEA-SE.
THE DAY NATALIA WILL GIVE UP ON D'ANTHES.
VICTORY MUST BE MINE
POOF






NATALIA?





NATA...

NATALIA SHOWED NO EMOTION THESE PAST FEW MONTHS,
THUMP
AND NOW SHE CRIES AT THAT MAN'S WEDDING?
SASHA...
LET'S GO BACK HOME.
grab
BUT THE WEDDING IS STILL TAKING PLACE...

TO KEEP UP THIS FARCE!
YOU DON'T NEED...
YOU AND I SHOULD COOL OUR HEADS!!
WAIT!
SASHA, ARE WE GOING TO WALK BACK HOME?
SA-SHA?
"I SEE," YOU SAY?
...I SEE.
AN UNREA-SONABLE ONE.
I HAD A MAJOR LOSS PLAYING CARDS.
...

STOP, PEOPLE ARE STARING.
YOU ARE MY WIFE!
I'M APPA-LLED!
YOU ONLY GET UPSET OVER THAT IDIOTIC MAN'S WEDDING!
YOU HAVE NO CONCERN FOR OUR HOME'S ECONOMIC CONDITION, NOR FOR MY SUFFERING, DO YOU?
IS THAT ALL?
I CAN'T ENDURE IT ANY LONGER!
PUSHKIN'S WIFE IS CRYING PINING FOR HER BROTHER-IN-LAW
HERE, IN THE MIDDLE OF ST. PETER-SBURG,
LET THEM STARE!
LET'S TALK WHEN WE GET HOME!
PEOPLE SHOULD PAY US FOR THE SHOW THEY'RE GETTING!
WE HAVE BEEN A SPECTACLE FOR A LONG TIME NOW!
NATA-LIA!!

NATALIA,
I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING I HAVE KEPT IT TO MYSELF FOR HALF A YEAR!
THINK OF ME FIRST!
SASHA
YOUR SISTERS, THE CHILDREN AND THE SERVANTS LISTEN TO US.
WE CAN'T TALK AT HOME.
I PRAYED EARNESTLY!!
I WAITED FOR THIS DAY I NEVER BLAMED YOU.
I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOREVER!
FOR THE DAY OF THIS WEDDING.
FOR THE DAY THAT YOU GIVE UP.
LISTEN TO ME!
AND YET YOU STILL...
IT'S ALREADY OVER.
YOU ARE WRONG, SASHA.

YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT I M A CAPABLE ADULT
YOU ARE WRONG!
I'VE ONLY LIVED THIR-TEEN YEARS MORE THAN YOU HAVE
MY HEART IS STILL LIKE A CHILD'S!!
EVER SINCE CHILDHOOD, I HAVE BEEN AFRAID OF
BEING HATED BY THE PERSON I LOVE MOST!
MY SALICY AND UNCARING MOTHER
AND YOU

SHE WAS AN UNFAITHFUL WIFE, LIKE YOU!
DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS TO ME...
I NO LONGER CARE ABOUT INFIDELITIES
ALL I CARE ABOUT ARE FEELINGS
HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU IMAGINE HIM HOLDING YOU?
YOU ARE SO CRUE...

STOP...
Y... YOU ARE SAYING SUCH CRUEL THINGS TO ME
TRUE FEELINGS
WHAT I WANT...
IS FEELINGS.
IF YOU DON'T LOVE ME,
THEN GO AWAY.

GO WHEREVER YOU LIKE...
AND DON'T COME BACK TO ME!
SASHA!

"Go away ...
stagger
"What I want...
is feelings."
and don't come back!"
MY HEART
I GAVE IT TO D'ANTHES...

I CANNOT GIVE IT TO YOU.
SO SASHA
THERE IS NO TURNING BACK
AND IT WAS SHATTERED
INTO PIECES
I CAN'T RECOVER IT.
I DON'T HAVE ANY PLACE TO GO

FOOL!
WHY WEREN'T YOU WHERE I LEFT YOU?
HE TOLD ME TO GO AWAY, BUT HE RAN, BREATHLESS,
SEARCHING THE WHOLE TOWN FOR ME
grab
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL YOURSELF!?
YOU'LL FREEZE!

AFTER ALL...
HE HASN'T LEFT ME... STUPID ME

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE NO FEELINGS
WE WILL FREEZE OTHERWISE

Baron Heeckeren's mansion
HEY!! SOMEONE STOP D'ANTHES...
HE'S THE BRIDEGROOM!!
Clap
Clap
Clap
STOP!
STOP,
D'ANTHES!

I'M SORRY, EKATERINA.
I ADVISED HIM NOT TO DRINK TOO MUCH, BUT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. HE IS JUST HAVING FUN WITH HIS FRIENDS.
YES, DON'T WORRY.
WHEN SOLDIERS GATHER TOGETHER, THEY HAVE NO RESTRAINT.
ANYWAY IT'S A BIT
DON'T YOU THINK, AUNT?
ALEXANDRA!
HOWEVER
IN AN HOUR, BOTH OF YOU NEED TO LEAVE ON YOUR HONEYMOON
WHERE WILL THEY GO?
WHAT A WITTY REMARK
TO MY VILLA IN THE COUNTRYSIDE
DON'T
SIGH
WHAT IS IT?
HA HA HA
DRUNK ALREADY? YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FULFIL YOUR MARITAL DUTIES TONIGHT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU DUEL? YOU ARE A DAMN COWARD

MINISTER NESSELRODE...
I WAS THE ONE WHO SAID IT
WHY DID YOU AND HEECKEREN ACCEPT PUSHKIN'S CONDITIONS?
IT'S AN INSULT
YOU SAID "WHY DIDN'T YOU DUEL WITH PUSHKIN? YOU ARE A DAMN COWARD."
I DIDN'T SAY THAT
YOU HAVE JUST INSULTED ME, POLETIKA!
HMN?
!
HE HAS INSULTED YOU AND YOUR FATHER
AND YOU HAVE SACRIFICED YOURSELF
stagger
PUSHKIN HAS COMPLETELY DISREGARDED THIS WEDDING
HE DOESN'T SHOW EVEN A BIT OF WILLINGNESS TO TRULY RECONCILE

PLEASE, MIND YOUR WORDS A BIT.
OUR MARRIAGE WAS A JOINT AGREEMENT
SACRIFICE?
THAT'S EXTREMELY RUDE!
YES, I WAS RUDE
NESSELRODE,
TONIGHT THAT TOPIC IS
HEH, DON'T FALL ASLEEP
SIGH
HOWEVER
I AGREE PUSHKIN IS DOING THIS
SOLELY TO INSULT OUR FAMILY
IS IT OKAY TO LET PUSHKIN BE SO CONCEITED?
I CAN'T HELP BUT INVOLVE MYSELF
AS I CONSIDER YOU AND YOUR SON MY FRIENDS,
THIRSTY
IT'S UNFORGIVABLE
THE MAIN POINT IS THAT HE
IT'S HOT

AH, THIS PLACE IS SO NOISY.
EVERY-THING IS SO DE-PRES-SING.
I WANT IT TO END.
WHY ISN'T SHE HERE?
HEY ...
D'AN-THES?
!

MINISTER NESSELRODE,
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO STOP TREATING ME AS A COWARD

IF YOU KEEP INSULTING ME
AND MY BROTHER-IN-LAW,
I'M READY TO TAKE EXTREME MEASURES
I GET IT, D'ANTHES
COME DOWN AND LET'S DRINK A TOAST

NO, I WILL DRINK A TOAST...
UP HERE

Kyaaa
!
I WANT TO DIE
DEATH WILL PUT AN END TO THIS

AND I WILL BE WRAPPED IN...
IN THE BEAUTIFUL BLACK FEATHERS OF MY ANGEL OF DEATH.
STOP.
GO AHEAD AND SOFTLY DO IT.
AH...
ARE YOU AWAKE?

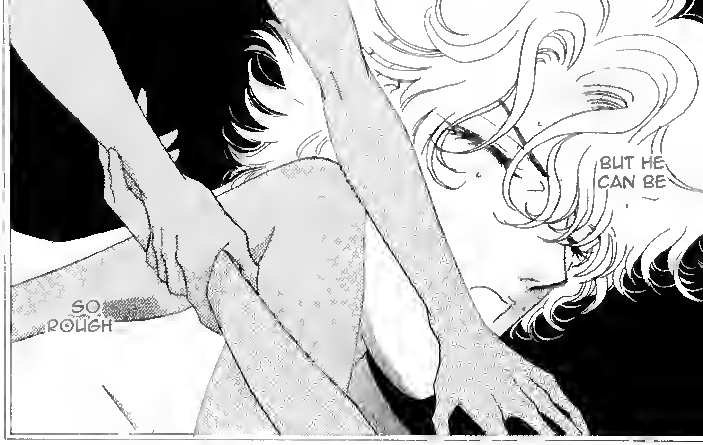
WHO IS IT?
THANK GOOD-NESS
A NURSE?
I WAS A BIT WORRIED.
YOU SEEMED TO BE HAVING A NIGHT-MARE
WE WILL POSTPONE OUR TRIP TO THE VILLA TO TOMORROW
TONIGHT YOU SHOULD REST AT HOME
I BROUGHT YOU TO OUR BED-ROOM

A BRIDE
THE GUESTS ARE STILL ENJOYING THEMSELVES
I'M SURE THEY WILL UNTIL MORNING
SHE TALKS A LOT
ARE YOU THIRSTY?
I'LL BRING YOU SOME WATER
WHOSE BRIDE IS SHE?
YOU CAUSED QUITE AN UPROAR
FOR A MOMENT I REALLY THOUGHT YOU FELL
HER PROFILE IS SIMILAR
TO HERS
HUH?
ERM..
THIS IS
MY BRIDE

MR. O'ANTHES?

NATALIE!

UNTIL NOW,
I ONLY SAW HIS TENDER SIDE
WHAT PART OF HIM HAVE I SEEN?


BUT HE CAN BE
SO ROUGH

I'M SORRY

I ACTED VIOLENTLY... TOWARDS YOU...
WHY IS HE GETTING DRESSED?
EH?

BUT IT WASN'T UNPLEASANT
I FEEL AS IF I'VE MET HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME.

EVEN I KNOW IT
I'M GETTING STRANGE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ARE YOU GOING OUT AGAIN?
SASHA?
WHY? ALL OF A SUDDEN
SASHA?